

commerce missions. It's not just a matter of military investments. If we want to advance the national security interests of America, we have to be good neighbors, good friends, and good partners. And you represent all of that, and I am very, very, very grateful to you.

I also want to say that I'm grateful for the things you do here in this country that kind of are above and beyond the call of duty. The work you do with Portuguese families and Portuguese citizens, the things that you share with them, are very, very important to me.

So let me say, I also have been told that there are three people who have been working here for over 40 years. And I think I should recognize them. Even if my Portuguese is not very good, I'll do my best. *Graca*, Santos. All I can say is, if you've been working here 43 years, you were obviously too young to go to work when you started. [Laughter] And Joao and Teresa Venancio, who have been tending your garden all these years. Where are they? I'm glad you're here.

So I say to you, to you three and to all of you, and to your family and your children, *obrigado*. Thank you for what you have done for the United States. And I know you'll be very glad when we're all gone. [Laughter] Have a good wheels-up party.

Thank you very much.

NOTE: The President spoke at 12:10 p.m. in the Ballroom at the Dom Pedro Hotel. In his remarks, he referred to Prime Minister Ehud Barak of Israel; Chairman Yasser Arafat of the Palestinian Authority; Prime Minister Antonio Guterres and President Jorge Sampaio of Portugal; and U.S. Ambassador Gerald S. McGowan and his wife, Susan. A tape was not available for verification of the content of these remarks.

Statement on Welfare Reform

June 1, 2000

Today I am pleased to announce that new guidance is being released that builds on my administration's long-standing commitment to reform welfare, reward work, and support working families in their transition from welfare to work. The Departments of Health and Human Services, Labor, and Transportation

are releasing updated guidance on how States and communities can coordinate Federal resources to address the transportation challenge in moving people from welfare to work. The guidance provides a variety of innovative strategies that communities can fund, ranging from making public transit more accessible for weekend and evening shifts to helping individuals lease, purchase, or repair a car. In addition, the Departments of Housing and Urban Development and Health and Human Services are releasing new guidance for housing and welfare agencies to work together to help families in public and assisted housing move toward self-sufficiency using services such as job search assistance, mentoring, counseling, transportation, and child care.

A new evaluation of the Minnesota Family Investment Program confirms that promoting and rewarding work has powerful positive impacts on low income families. The Minnesota results show that welfare reform can substantially increase employment, reduce poverty, decrease levels of domestic abuse, and improve children's behavior and school performance when States combine strong work requirements with investments in supports for low income working families. Employment and earnings impacts were especially large for families in public and assisted housing. This research also found that welfare reform can increase marriage rates and marital stability among low income families.

These results highlight the importance of the interagency guidance on housing and transportation released today and the need for continued investments to support working families. I call on the Congress to enact my budget proposals to support working families: expanding the earned-income tax credit, improving access to affordable and quality child care, expanding health care for low income working families, providing more housing vouchers for hard-pressed working families, helping more low income families get to work by making it easier for them to own a car or obtain public transportation, and helping more low income fathers work and support their children.

Statement on the Circuit Court of Appeals Decision in the Elian Gonzalez Case

June 1, 2000

I am pleased with the decision today of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals. As I have said before, this is a case about the importance of family and the bond between a father and son. I have supported the Justice Department's conclusion that Elian's father, Juan Miguel Gonzalez, is the one best suited to speak for his child, and I am pleased that the court has upheld the Justice Department's determination.

Statement on the Death of Tito Puente

June 1, 2000

Hillary and I were saddened to learn of the death of the Latin jazz band leader Tito Puente. For more than 50 years, Puente was more than a musician—he was a trailblazer. The five-time Grammy award winner's countless recordings are classics in the genre he helped define.

In 1997 I was honored to welcome Tito Puente to the White House and present him with the National Medal of the Arts. At that ceremony, I said, "Just hearing Tito Puente's name makes you want to get up and dance. With his finger on the pulse of the Latin American musical tradition and his hands on the timbales, he has probably gotten more people out of their seats and onto the dance floor than any other living artist." This is truly his legacy—music that brings joy to young and old, to people of any background and in many nations, all around the world. We will miss Tito Puente's vibrant presence both on stage and off, but we know his spirit will endure in the music he has given us.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and many friends.

Remarks Following Discussions With Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder of Germany in Berlin, Germany

June 1, 2000

First, let me thank Chancellor Schroeder for making me feel welcome again in Germany and Berlin. I am delighted to be here, and I have enjoyed this visit. And I'm looking forward our dinner tonight and the Conference on Progressive Governance, beginning tomorrow, and of course, my trip to Aachen in the morning.

The Chancellor has faithfully reported on our lengthy conversation. We spent virtually all of our time discussing Russia, the question of missile defense, and the really heart-rending child custody cases that he mentioned.

I would like to also, though, publicly thank the Chancellor for the leadership of Germany in the cause of European unity and in our efforts to bring peace and freedom and human rights to the Balkans, something that is very important to the United States.

Let me say to all of you that the relationship the United States has with Germany has been profoundly important for the last 50 years. But I think it may well be even more important for the next 50. And I intend to do whatever I can in the time I have left as President to make sure this relationship is on solid ground for the new century.

I am particularly grateful that a number of our citizens will be participating in Expo 2000 here, in the American Voices program, having conversations with the German people directly. And I thank Commissioner Rollnick and the others who are responsible for that.

Finally, just one word on a development back in the United States today. I was very pleased with the decision of the Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals in the Elian Gonzalez case, upholding the decision of the Justice Department that he should be with his father. We have tried to honor the principles that the Chancellor and I discussed today in the cases involving our two countries in that